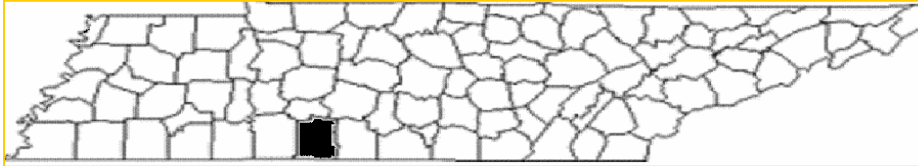


The Status of Women in Lawrence County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN LAWRENCE COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	59.40	74
Women's Annual Earnings	\$20,928	52
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	75.4%	23
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	41.0%	60
Female Unemployment Rate	7.6%	77
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	22.9%	85
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	54.88	64
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	17.8%	66
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	6.3%	89
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	66.9%	64
Female High School Dropout Rate	15.9%	90
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	95.2%	12
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	15.8%	48
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	6.9%	14
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	34.7	56

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Lawrence County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Women in Lawrence County earn about \$7,000 less annually than their male counterparts.
- ◇ In Lawrence County the women's labor force participation rate is 41% and women account for 45.2% of the total labor force.
- ◇ There are equal percentages of unemployed men and women in the county.
- ◇ Of employed women in Lawrence County 22.9% work in professional or managerial occupations while 21.4% of all employed persons work in such positions in the county.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ 66.9% of women in the county have a high school diploma but 65.5% all county residents have their high school degree.
- ◇ Only 6.3% of Lawrence County women have a four-year college degree, while 8.7% of all residents have at least a bachelor's degree. Though slightly higher percentages of women have high school degrees, higher percentages of men have four-year college degrees.
- ◇ Women in the county have a 15.9% high school dropout rate, placing Lawrence 90th among all counties.
- ◇ Lawrence ranks in the top 15 counties in women with any kind of health insurance coverage (95.2%).
- ◇ 15.8% of women in the county earn incomes below the poverty level.
- ◇ Though 10.7% of all families live in poverty in Lawrence County, the percentage rises to 26.1% for families with a female householder and no husband present.
- ◇ Though women-owned businesses represent 17.8% of all private firms in Lawrence County they account for % of the total income and receipts for privately-owned businesses in the county.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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		Lawrence County	Rank of Lawrence County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$20,928	52	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	75.4%	23	Davidson: 82.1%
Employment	Female Labor Force Participation Rate	41.0%	60	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	7.6%	77	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	22.9%	85	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	17.8%	66	Moore: 63.3%
Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	6.3%	89	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equivalency)	66.9%	64	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	15.9%	90	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	95.2%	12	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	15.8%	48	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	6.9%	14	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	34.7	56	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Lawrence County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties